

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A container receiving unit for use in an apparatus for preparing a beverage, said container receiving unit comprising:

- a receiving space for receiving a container arranged for holding a beverage base material,
- a reservoir for containing beverage,
- a distribution system, comprising an inlet connected to said reservoir, at least two outlets for dispensing beverage, and a liquid flow path, extending from the inlet to the outlets,

characterized in that the liquid flow path comprises means for reducing the speed of beverage flowing from the reservoir to the outlets during operation.

2. (original) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said means comprise a restriction in the liquid flow path.

3. (original) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that said restriction comprises at least one wall extending transversally to the liquid flow path.

4. (original) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the restriction is V-shaped.

5. (currently amended) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 3~~and 4~~, characterized in that two opposing triangular walls are provided extending transversally to the liquid flow path.

6. (original) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the liquid flow path comprises a central transport channel discharging into a buffer chamber via the restriction, said buffer chamber discharging into the outlets.

7. (original) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that a further restriction is provided between the buffer chamber and the outlets.

8. (currently amended) A container receiving unit as claimed in Claim 6~~or 7~~, characterized in that a surface is provided between the buffer chamber and each outlet, which surface slants towards the outlet.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for preparing a beverage, characterized in that the apparatus comprises a container receiving unit as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

10. (original) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the apparatus comprises a water unit for supplying hot water via a transport channel to the receiving space.